
Other Tools

A number of other resources can help promote community food security. Here are just a few that might be useful:

Guide to Measuring Household Food Security

A reliable measure of the extent of hunger in a community is essential to any commitment to eliminating it. The *Guide to Measuring Household Food Security* gives communities and organizations a practical and powerful tool to quantify the severity of food insecurity and hunger households experience. By asking a representative sample of households a core set of questions, communities can compare their estimates of the local prevalence of food insecurity and hunger to national estimates prepared by USDA each year. The *Guide to Measuring Household Food Security* will be available on the web at www.econ.ag.gov/briefing/foodsecurity in early 2000.

Together We Can! A What, Why, and How Handbook for Working To End Hunger in Your Community

Together We Can is a what, why, and how handbook to help end hunger in local communities. This handbook offers step-by-step plans to combat hunger for individuals, community organizations, and experienced anti-hunger advocates. It outlines volunteer opportunities within existing Federal nutrition programs, provides action plans for specific anti-hunger activities, and catalogs resources available to fight hunger in communities, States, and the Nation. *Together We Can* will be available on the web at www.fns.usda.gov/fns in early 2000.

The Nutrition Safety Net*At Work for Families

*The Nutrition Safety Net*At Work for Families* is a straightforward guide to Federal requirements for processing applications and determining eligibility for the Food Stamp Program. The guide includes information on how States can work within the existing law to simplify the application process and reach out to low-income families with children. It discusses requirements and options that apply when families seek welfare, leave welfare, and have no contact with the welfare system. The guide also points the reader to various sources of funding that States can use to pay for outreach, training, and other activities to help bring their systems into compliance with the law, while increasing nutrition coverage for low-income families with children. *The Nutrition Safety Net*At Work for Families* is available on the web at www.fns.usda.gov/fsp. Look for the “Access Guide” in the Clinton Food Stamp Initiative section.

Community Food Security Initiative Action Plan

The USDA Community Food Security Initiative is helping communities build their local food systems to decrease hunger, improve nutrition, and help families move from poverty to self-sufficiency. The initiative is building vital links directly between USDA and nonprofit groups, private businesses, and ordinary citizens, as well as links among State, local, and tribal governments—all with one goal in mind: helping communities across America end hunger. The action plan is available on the web at www.reeusda.gov/food_security/actplan.htm.

Community Food Security Assessment Tool Kit

Researchers from around the country who attended a USDA-sponsored Community Food Security Assessment Conference in June 1999 are collaborating with staff from USDA's Economic Research Service to develop a set of indicators and assessment tools that communities can use to describe and profile their local food security situation. This tool kit will include materials for collecting new information from households, food stores, farmers, and service providers and guidelines for compiling and interpreting data collected by other government agencies and private groups. The tool kit will be available in summer 2000. For further information contact the Food Assistance and Nutrition Research Program office, 202-694-5408, or consult the food assistance briefing room on the web at www.econ.ag.gov/briefing/foodasst.

Making Sense of the Census

The U.S. Bureau of the Census has developed a web site to help communities access information it has compiled on population trends. The Community Profiles section is a great way to find information about one's hometown or any other U.S. city, county, or reservation. In particular, it offers a quick way to find out about the number of people living in poverty in a community. Other information available through the site includes business and economic data and special thematic maps that graphically display population trends. The site also has a basic search engine that allows searches by key word. It is called the American FactFinder and is available on the web at <http://factfinder.census.gov> (note there is no "www" in this address).